

# St Mary's

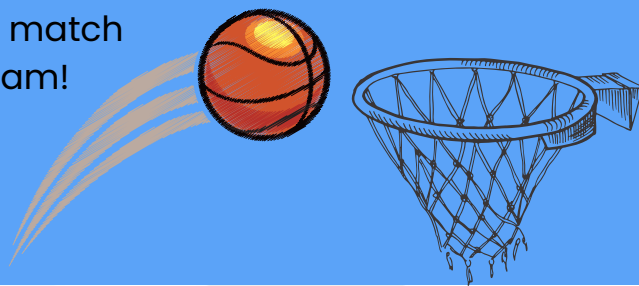


## NEWSLETTER

### St Mary's U14 Basketball Team win the League Final

A huge well done to our U14 Basketball team. They recently played in the School's Basketball League Final at the Vertu Motor Arena (Home of the Newcastle Eagles) against St Cuthbert's. Our students showed great resilience, teamwork and skill to beat a strong St Cuthbert's team 38-36! It was also an amazing experience for our students to play at the home of the Newcastle Eagles. The winning squad included Noah Vushemasimba, Jacob Vushemasimba, Tai Peacock, Jan Sidhu, Aiden Masri and Vasco Fragata. Noah was also awarded player of the match by the organisers. Congratulations to our talented team!

ISSUE 7 - MARCH 2025



# Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move towards the summer term, Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work very hard in preparation for their final examinations. Well done to our students for all of their excellent efforts and thank you to the staff team for their superb support of these students.

All other year groups also continue to work well in lessons, and taking part in the wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer. We've recently had a large group of students travel to the Flame Conference at Wembley, as well as students competing in a wide range of sports matches and other competitions, with a fantastic basketball win for our U14 team and amazing victories for our U12 and U13 Girls' Football teams.

We are also enjoying our wonderful programme of Lenten activities as we approach Easter.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson, Headteacher

# Flame 2025

Congratulations to the students who attended the 'Flame Conference' on Saturday 15th March 2025 at Wembley for representing St Mary's so well.

They had a brilliant day of worship, prayer, music and inspirational speakers such as Bear Grylls. Thank you too, to the colleagues who accompanied the students.

An enormous well done to the other Newcastle team who also did very well at Wembley on the same weekend!



# Jubilee Year Mascot Competition

In 2025, the Catholic Church are celebrating a Jubilee Year, themed 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Jubilee Year is a time for reflection, prayer, and pilgrimage, encouraging Catholics to focus on hope and reconciliation. We continue to celebrate this special year in many ways in school, including with a recent St Mary's Jubilee Mascot Competition. Congratulations to the winners Glory Oluwole-Oni, Matylda Czubinska and Kaylee Tang for their beautiful and thoughtful designs.

**Gaude**

Gaude is a mix of gaudium (joy) and Fide (faith) in Latin which is in our school moto and represents our school as a total!

This shield has our school logo on it and the shield symbolises the protection of God with us.

Amor

There is a CROSS in her EYES to show the faith we have and when Jesus died for our sins on the cross.

Red BOOTS to help her on her pilgrim journey and to show that she can walk over any obstacle that comes near her.

Amor is Gaude's companion who represents love Amor also has wings to guide Gaude on her journey Amor is there to show that we don't have to do things alone.

*Lucja*

THE NAME LUCJA MEANS 'LIGHT' WHICH REFLECTS HOW WE ALL SHINE TOGETHER IN FAITH, JOY AND LOVE!

The paintbrush represents creativity and how we all shine in our different talents.

The friendship bracelet Lucja wears symbolises the many unique friendships and relationships in our school with all different colours. It emphasizes how we shine together!

The designs painted on her trousers present the creativity of students! The yellow design shows stars which again represent how students in this school are able to shine through their work and talents. The design in black shows stick figures holding hands which represent the unity, friendships and relationships of the school!



Her glasses represent intelligence.

The white flowers on her blazer and in her hair are symbols of St. Mary, reflecting her purity and innocence. It also represents the religious aspects of our school, showing we shine together in faith.

### FAITH

The little accents of yellow in Lucja's clothes represent the great joy you can find in the small aspects of school life!

### JOY

Lucja is holding a yellow book that shows our school's great appreciation and love for reading. It is yellow to symbolise the joy of reading.

Lucja wears her school uniform proudly to show that students are proud to be a part of the school!

**LANTERN (Divine Guidance)** \* Faigire Tony (95)

- Represents the light of God guiding Solara on her journey on her spiritual path
- It symbolises the school's role in guiding students toward moral and spiritual path/growth, helping them to navigate challenges

**Staff (spiritual growth)**

- Reflects her continuous spiritual growth as she deepens her faith through the pilgrimage
- Role of teachers, mentors and religious leaders in guiding students towards wisdom and understanding of faith

**Sandals (Endurance)**

- Represents edurance and humility in walking the difficult path of faith
- Reminder of focus on the inner spiritual life rather than the material wealth or external appearance

**Cloak (Grace and protection)**

- Symbolises God's grace, protecting and freeing her on her journey
- The school community offering a "cloak" of moral and spiritual teachings, helping students grow and find strengths in their beliefs

**Jattina (Mark of a Pilgrim's devotion and vow to God)**

- The crescent-shaped tattoo on Solara's forehead is a mark of her devotion to God and her vow to seek spiritual enlightenment. It represents a commitment of her faith and signifies her dedication to fulfilling her pilgrimage with a pure heart

**Solara**

**Bag (spiritual lessons)**

- Holds the memories and lessons from her journey

**The responsibilities and duties students take as they learn about faith**

## Prayer for Pope Francis (from CAFOD)

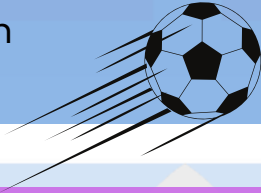
Loving and Merciful God. We place Pope Francis into Your hands, trusting in Your eternal care. May he be comforted by the love of the Church and the prayers of all the faithful. We ask, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that his recovery be swift, and his spirit be strengthened in Your peace. Amen.



# U12 Girls' Football Team win the City League!



Our Year 7 U12 Girls' Football Team won the finals of the City League recently. The team won the final, battling against three other schools and winning all their matches. The St Mary's team won against Kenton School 3-1, Gosforth East 3-0 and Walbottle 3-1. The students played amazingly and showed such great sportsmanship throughout the matches. Huge congratulations to Eden Brogden, Amelie Hall, Enya Leighton, Aoife McCorry, Emma Spencer, Ava Teasdale, Margo Tripin and Talia Woods.



## Les Misérables

Last half term over 100 talented students from across all year groups performed in our school musical 'Les Misérables'. Our cast and orchestra performed for audiences six times in one week, and gave it their absolute all in every single performance. The conviction, empathy, and electricity they brought to the stage are what made this production truly unforgettable. The characters and stories of 'Les Misérables' are challenging and the performers embraced them with heart, dedication, and strength. We feel so lucky to have such a talented group of performers. The pool of talent we have here, in school, is exceptional, and we can't wait to start planning the next show!



## Catherine McKinnell MP Visit

Each week, in the Sixth Form, we hold our Employer Experience Programme. This allows students to meet with various employers and professionals from around the region. We were delighted to welcome Catherine McKinnell MP into the school to speak to our Year 12 students. Catherine discussed her career in politics and her new role as the Government Minister for School Standards. Catherine also took questions from our students about politics including the rise of populism in politics and how the government must adapt its international relations policy moving forward.



## Under 13 Girls Football

The U13 Girls' Football team are the proud holders of the City Cup. Coming through the earlier knock-out rounds, the girls secured their place in the final. In a fiercely contested match, which ended 1-1 after extra time, the St Mary's players held their nerve in the dreaded penalty shoot-out to win the competition. Congratulations to our students: Ruby Farrell, Sophia Blaney, Emily George, Emma Spencer, Savanna Onyango, Ella Harwood, Eden Brogden, Jessie Saunders and Sofia Hanney-Margallo.



## Year 8 Boys Football

Our Year 8 boys competed in their final league game of the season against Great Park. They ran out 4-0 winners. There were superb displays all round, especially from Sean Teasdale, who scored a hat-trick, and Lucas Johansson Garcia, finished off a great team move. This was a perfect way to end the league season. The team now has a cup semi-final to look forward to. On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, we play against Jesmond Park. With a place in the final at stake, this promises to be a great game.



## Table Tennis

Recently, four students took part in the Newcastle Schools Table Tennis Competition. The four boys gave a great account of themselves against tough opposition, finishing the day in third place and winning a well-deserved bronze medal. Excellent achievement!



## Girls Taking the Lead

Some of our Year 8 and Year 9 girls were invited to participate in a project encouraging girls to take up leadership roles in football, such as coaching and officiating. The girls gained experience in planning and delivering training sessions, as well as learning more about the role of the referee and gained knowledge of hand signals and the correct use of cards. Receiving a certificate for their efforts, the girls had a fantastic day and were excellent ambassadors of the school.



# St Mary's team reach the National Schools' Chess Championship Final

Recently, St Mary's beat St Cuthbert's 5-1 in the regional (Newcastle & Durham) final of the National Schools Chess Championships. This means that, for the third time in four years, we have qualified as one of 26 schools for the national finals. This event is held at the University of Nottingham on June 25th and 26th. The team was Alastair Howell, Hyunwoo Lee, Aveesha Mapalana, Karthikeyan Nandakumar, Otto Nemeth, Jiatong Wu, Teodor Muraru and Albert Pozarlik. Many congratulations to our St Mary's team and also to St Cuthbert's, another school in our Trust who reached the regional final for the first time.



## Library News Round Up

Recently the Library has been hosting a number of exciting events which students have been able to get involved, allowing them to explore new books in different genres and show off their love of reading.

Two teams of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 recently competed against 21 other local teams in the National Literacy Trust's Reading Champions Quiz. After eight challenging rounds, St Mary's 'A' team finished in joint 8th position with 40 points, just one point ahead of the 'B' team in 11th place. Well done to both teams for performing so well.

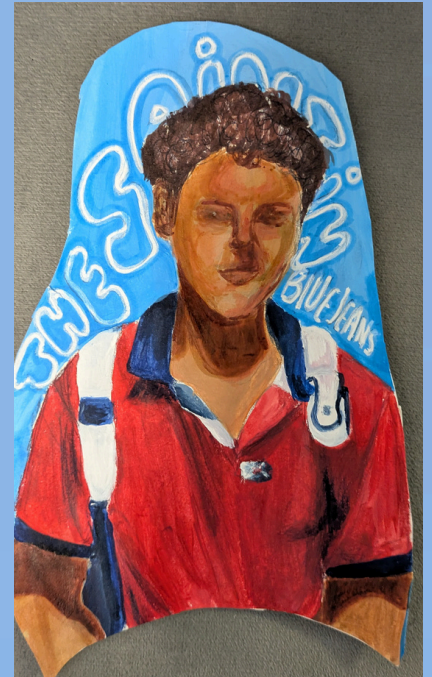
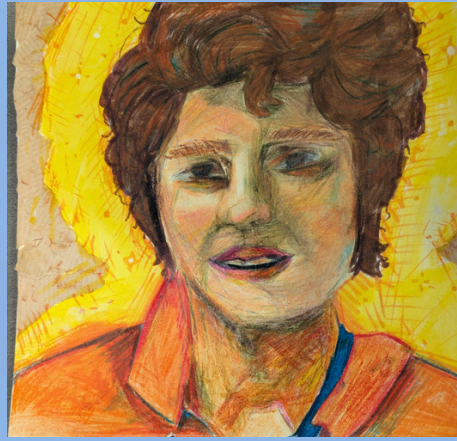
In addition, the book 'Can You Get Rainbows in Space?' by Dr Sheila Kanani MBE has been selected by over 13,000 student judges as this year's winner of the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize. Eleven of the judges were from St Mary's who, in return for reading and voting on the six shortlisted science books, will each receive a certificate and a book token.

Finally, as part of our World Book Day celebrations, the library held a Pets Caught Reading competition in which students were asked to submit images of their pets enjoying a book - the winning entry is featured below!



# Blessed Carlo Acutis Prayer Writing Invitation

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are inviting students to write a prayer inspired by the life of Carlo Acutis. Students have been writing prayers as well as drawing portraits of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Portraits by Emily Oliver (Yr9) and Khloe Amune (Yr9).



O Lord, we lift our hearts in prayer,  
For children held within Your care.  
In Hexham's hills and Newcastle's light,  
Shine on them, Lord, and guide them right.

Like Carlo, may their faith burn bright,  
A beacon glowing in the night.  
May love and kindness shape their days,  
And truth be woven through their ways.

He walked with joy, so pure and free,  
Embracing all in charity.  
He found You in the Bread of Life,  
A source of strength through joy and strife.

Lord, help us walk that path so true,  
To seek the good in all we do.  
To serve, to give, to trust, to grow,  
To love the world and let it show. Amen.  
Prayer written by Alissa Korriku, Year 11 and  
Blessed Carlo Acutis by Michael Rickeard,  
Year 9.



## Warhammer Club

Some of our Warhammer enthusiasts have relaunched the club to get together and share their passion for strategy, creativity and epic battles in this thrilling tabletop game. So far the students have been enjoying assembling and painting their miniatures and immersing themselves in the lore of Warhammer before they get ready to strategise battle plans and challenge each other to a duel. New members of the club, which meets on Friday lunchtimes, are welcome. Please see Ms Mullan for more details.



## Lenten Celebration of the Word

Students have been attending their Lenten Celebration of the Word services. The theme of Lent this year is "Go out and bear fruit." The service explores what this theme means and how we are commissioned like the disciples to spread the Word of God. Blessed Carlo Acutis and Sr Clare Crockett are also explored as people who have spread God's message in a variety of ways. As a gift at the end of the service, students receive a prayer card with quote from scripture on it.



# Year 8 Retreat

On Monday 10th March to Wednesday 12th March, Year 8 students embarked on a transformative two-day spiritual retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village, centered around the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope." Inspired by Pope Francis' Jubilee message—"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone"—the retreat encouraged students to reflect on their role in building a better world. The retreat also offered the students an enriching experience of reflection and growth. Throughout their time at the Youth Village, the students engaged in meaningful activities including art workshops that encouraged creative expression, prayer sessions that deepened their spiritual connection, and group challenges focused on building a better world. The retreat not only provided them with an opportunity to explore the theme of Hope but also fostered a strong sense of community and purpose as they reflected on how they can contribute to a brighter, more compassionate world. The students left the retreat with hearts full of inspiration and a renewed commitment to their own journeys as pilgrims of hope.



# Art Exhibition at the City Library

Art students at St Mary's were invited to display their work at Newcastle City Library, as part of the Arts Award Exhibition. The exhibition marks the end of their Bronze and Silver Arts Award. The purpose of the award is to develop young people's artistic skills, as well as improve their research and communication skills. By participating in the award, students engage actively in the arts as both creators and audience members, encouraging them to take their first steps towards leadership through sharing their learning with others. The impressive work on display shows their final pieces, with prints and cards being sold for the charity CAFOD. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to themselves and the school.



# National Careers Week

National Careers Week at St Mary's was a fantastic opportunity to help students develop essential skills for life. It encouraged them to reflect on their strengths, explore different career paths, and see how the skills they're building in school will prepare them for the future. Guest speakers from ESH Construction, ASK Apprenticeships, and the Newcastle United Foundation provided invaluable industry insights, broadening students' perspectives on potential careers.



# Careers Fair

We recently held our annual Careers Fair in school, where over 45 employers from a range of sectors provided students with the opportunity to explore career options, gain first-hand advice, and build valuable industry connections. The students enjoyed being able to interact with professionals from a variety of different sectors and gave them food for their thought about potential career pathways in the future.



# University Outreach Sessions

Over the past month we have been delighted to welcome in various different universities to come in and work with our students. Year 9 students recently took part in a critical thinking workshop from the University of Oxford. Newcastle University have supported our KS5 STEM club by running hands-on workshops in fields like zoology, genetics and renewable energies. The University of Cambridge have delivered a session on personal statements to Year 12 students. Whilst Durham University came into the school to lead an information session why students may wish to apply to study there.



## Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Our Year 10 students recently completed their first Duke of Edinburgh Expedition of the year in the North Pennines near Derwent Water.



## Upcoming dates and events ...

**Friday 11th April:** Last day of term before the Easter break for all students

**Tuesday 29th April:** All students return following the Easter break

**Friday 9th May:** Year 13 begin study leave for their summer exams

**Friday 23rd May:** Year 11 begin study leave for their summer exams